Memo on conference at ABC on Monday, 8/19/74 HW 8/20/74

Yesterday I delivered most of the master of WW IV to the printer for shooting. When the index is corrected and the missing copy is provided for the remaining few of the 224 pages I'll be returning to him with these few pages.

It seemed to me that the time had come to attempt to sell the ancillary rights. On two counts decided to go to ABC: they are Avis and when FrameUp came out there was a DC staffer, subordinate to Lord, who wanted the net to do something with it. So, I decided to phone him while awaiting Dr. Patterson, who had been delayed 20 minutes.

It turned out that since 1971 this Boyle had gone elsewhere. So, I was routed to a producer, Helen Westwood. She agreed to see me for a few moments about noon. I was only about five blocks away. But by the time I got there she was busy, I suppose with Ford's special broadcast, ad a young staffer, Tom Shine, came out. I told him as I had told her, my one stipulation was confidentiality because it would be possible to duplicate what I had done once it was known. She had agreed but Shine felt he lacked the authority. He said that he would like to get an idea of what I was talking about so he could recommend to I think the news director or assignment editor whether or not to see me. Shine was quite impressed. He wrote out Delaney's name and number for me and told me to call after lunch. I told him I had a conference with the lawyers to prepare for tomorrow's hearing, gave him Bud's number, and said that if Delaney wanted to see me before I finished or had to be busy then for him to phone. After the legal conference I walked back to ABC. Delaney and a man named Duffy then spent more than an hour with me. I laid it all out. They also seemed quite impressed.

The see the documentary in this that Ido and they boasted of their new documentaries, with which I am not familiar. When I explained how I went to them, the above and more, they smiled and filled me in on the rest. I had been sent to Av Westin, then net news director in NYC, but ABC Chicago news people who knew me, from their local station there. Westin had then referred me to Lord. Westin is now in charge of their documentaries. (I doubt he'll remember that one conversation.)

I explained the concept and the contents of the book and said that were I in their position I'd want the most thorough check possible. On my part, I said, I'd be reluctant to deal with them unless they make as thorough a check as they have ever made. To that end I invited them or anyone they would send to see whatever they wanted to see, but in particular the correspondence with Rhoads on this and the court records. They said they want to see the transcript first. I phoned Lesar on the spot and arranged for him to give them his xerox of the entire thing. They sent a messenger as they said they would, through that terrible storm. I hope it was not waterlogged when they got it.

Delaney agreed on a prompt decision, to look further into it or to free me to go elsewhere. I said I wanted to deal exclusively, which is essential for them to get what they would want.

I explained that this is hasty, that it is really a rough draft done while other things also had to be attended to, but that because of the possible Nixon misuse, which they seemed to understand, and the pending FPT amendment, the history of which I gave them, including the influence of the spectro decisions, I felt I had no real choice. Delaney did ask if I believe that Nixon personally was involved in this exceptional release to me. I said I do not but that I do believe someone aware of his need and the use he could find was.

Daffy sat and said nothing, listening. I went into the transcript and its contents as I do in the book, what I think it means as a document and documentary, and what it means in terms of the assassination investigation. After I left - and I almost walked out with their secretary's paper which I had been reading while waiting for them - I remembered the Russell part and went back and told Delaney about that.

Then into the storm, the worst I can remember in intensity of rainfall and spray from larger xxxx vehicles, only to find on getting home that we still had a drought.